



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

July 23, 2024

Present – President Chuck Callahan, Vice President Pete Leshner, Keasha N. Haythe, Lynn L. Mielke, Dave Stepp, County Manager Clay Stamp, and County Attorney Patrick Thomas.

- I. Agenda – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, July 23, 2024.
- II. Minutes – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, June 11, 2024, and Tuesday, June 21, 2024.
- III. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, July 16, 2024, and Tuesday, July 23, 2024.
- IV. Council Recognition of Cadet John M. Schwaninger, IV, Easton Composite Squadron, MD-079, Civil Air Patrol – Maryland Wing – The Clerk read a certificate of recognition into the record noting the accomplishment of Cadet John M. Schwaninger, IV, recent recipient of the Civil Air Patrol Amelia Earhart Award, for sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character. The certificate also spoke of Cadet Schwaninger’s passing of comprehensive examinations on the topics of leadership and aerospace and his promotion to Cadet Captain, a feat accomplished by only three percent of Civil Air Patrol cadets. Prior to presentation of the certificate of recognition, Marvin Nielsen, Deputy Commander, Easton Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, stated that Cadet Schwaninger had joined the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program only three years ago and is currently the cadet commander of the 55-member cadet squadron. He stated that Cadet Schwaninger plans to attend West Virginia University and major in engineering and is also a distinguished graduate of the Intermediate Aircrew School for the National Emergency Services Academy; he recently received his private pilot’s license. Council members congratulated Cadet Schwaninger on his outstanding accomplishment and for his inspiration to other youth.

Mr. Stepp presented Cadet Captain Schwaninger with the Certificate of Recognition.

- V. Council Consideration of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Recommendations as Presented on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, by Mary Kay Verdery, Talbot County Grants Administrator – Ms. Verdery briefed the Council on the recommendations of the ARPA Subcommittee for distribution of the remaining \$2.3 million in ARPA funding for the 20 projects (three County projects, two broadband projects and 15 nonprofit projects) as presented to the Council at their meeting on Tuesday, July 9, 2024; Ms. Verdery stated that not all projects receiving 100% funding. She stated that the Subcommittee received \$5.5 million in requests for the \$2.3 million in funding available. Ms. Verdery outlined the Subcommittee’s recommendations as follows and requested Council consideration for approval of same: Talbot County Department of Public Works to assist low-and-moderate-income homeowners with extension of sewer (Resolution No. 235) - \$390,000; Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism – small business grants - \$60,000; Talbot County Department of Technical Services for cybersecurity and

data protection - \$305,000; Maryland Broadband Cell Tower Network core equipment at Wye Mills – \$38,000; Maryland Broadband 100 gig capable ring for the eight (8) cell towers in Talbot County - \$96,000; The ARC Port Street Commons Project for capital construction costs - \$100,000; Bay Hundred Community Volunteers mobile wheelchair ramp program - \$50,000; Building African American Minds (BAAM) for commercial kitchen equipment, food supplies and other building costs - \$150,000; Channel Marker, Inc. for repairs to their North Hanson Street facility and the painting of their Glebe Park Drive day program facility - \$80,000; Critchlow Adkins Children’s Center childcare facility expansion at Chapel District Elementary School (Cordova) - \$300,000; For All Seasons, Inc. facility upgrades - \$100,000; Foundation of Hope office construction and community space (workshops and events) - \$100,000; Grace Street Recovery Safe Station transport vehicle for treatment facilities; \$50,000; Habitat for Humanity Choptank which provides housing to very low-to-low income families - \$50,000; Neighborhood Service Center for procurement and installation of a walk-in freezer - \$34,450; St. Michaels Community Center capital project renovations - \$100,000; St. Vincent de Paul building expansion and renovation project - \$100,000; Talbot Family Network for financial assistance to their seven (7) local food pantries - \$112,500; Talbot Interfaith Shelter emergency shelter operating costs only - \$50,000; and Upper Shore Aging, Inc. for purchase and installation of kitchen equipment at Brookletts Place – The Talbot County Senior Center - \$15,000; requests total \$2,290,950 leaving a remaining balance of approximately \$3,000 of the \$7.2 million allocated to Talbot County. Mr. Leshner, ARPA Subcommittee Chair, spoke of the process of soliciting requests and the priorities and criteria by which the ARPA Subcommittee’s recommendations were made. The Council approved the recommendations as presented by voting 3 – 0 – 1 as follows:

- Mr. Callahan – Aye
- Mr. Stepp – Aye
- Mr. Leshner – Aye
- Ms. Mielke – Abstain

Ms. Haythe recused herself from the vote as The Foundation of Hope, Inc., of which Ms. Haythe is the Founder, is a recipient of ARPA funding.

VI. Introduction of Legislation:

A BILL TO AUTHORIZE TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND (THE “COUNTY”) TO BORROW NOT MORE THAN EIGHTY EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$88,000) IN ORDER TO FINANCE AND REFINANCE IMPROVEMENTS TO CERTAIN WASTEWATER FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY AND TO EFFECT SUCH BORROWING BY THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF ONE OR MORE SERIES OF ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS PAYABLE FROM AD VALOREM TAXES TO BE LEVIED BY THE COUNTY; EXEMPTING THE BONDS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 19-205 AND 19-207 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND; AUTHORIZING THE CONSOLIDATION OF SEPARATE SERIES OF BONDS INTO ONE OR MORE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDING OF SUCH BONDS AND RELATING GENERALLY TO THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF SUCH BONDS FOR SUCH PURPOSES was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, County Engineer, Ray Clarke, stated that the proposed legislation is for the last of the County’s USDA Rural Development loans for the rehabilitation and replacement of the sewer system in St. Michaels and that the amount represents a Change Order from the contractor for the project. He stated that the Town of St. Michaels has already reimbursed the County for the cost and those funds will be utilized to pay off the loan outlined in the proposed legislation. The bill was introduced by Mr.

Callahan, Ms. Haythe, Mr. Leshner, Ms. Mielke, and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1576. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

AN EMERGENCY BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1231 FOR THE PURPOSE OF COORDINATING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF MARYLAND ROUTE 662C TO FACILITATE TIMELY CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HOSPITAL AND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BY SHORE HEALTH SYSTEM, INC. AND MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC ON OCEAN GATEWAY (U.S. ROUTE 50) DURING THE 2025 SUMMER TRAVEL SEASON was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, stated that the purpose of the legislation is to facilitate a reconfiguration for the development of the new hospital and changes the timeframes outlined in Bill No. 1231. He stated that the legislation is being proposed as an emergency bill so that it will take effect immediately upon passage in order to avoid any delays in construction and impacts on US Rt. 50 traffic during the 2025 summer travel season. Mr. Thomas stated that an amendment to the road transfer agreement between the State and the County, and a new road inspection maintenance agreement, will be forthcoming in the very near future and that the transfer of MD Rt. 662 to the County and the County's conveyance to Shore Health, as outlined in the legislation, are contingent upon execution of both the documents and the State's approval of the temporary closure of MD Rt. 662C beginning October 1, 2024 to May 1, 2025. The legislation was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, and Mr. Stepp as Bill No. 1577. A public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington St., Easton, Maryland 21601.

VII. County Manager's Report:

- A. Talbot County Board of Appeals – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Keith Prettyman to the Talbot County Board of Appeals as an alternate; Mr. Prettyman will complete the unexpired term of Patrick Forrest who was appointed as a regular member in February 2024; said term will expire in February 2025. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the appointment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- B. Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Holly Baldwin and Earle Asche to three-year terms on the Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission; said terms will expire on July 1, 2027. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the reappointments by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- C. Talbot County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of Jeffrey “Jeff” Harrison to a four-year term on the Talbot County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board as the Bay Hundred District representative; said term will expire on July 1, 2028. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- D. Talbot County Weed Control Committee – Requested Council approval for the reappointment of William Foster to a three-year term on the Talbot County Weed Control Committee; said term will expire on July 1, 2027. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the reappointment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- E. Bid No. 24-13, CHILD & ADULT WELFARE LEGAL SERVICES – TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND – Requested Council approval of the Talbot County Department of Social Services recommendation to award Bid No. 24-13 to the most qualified bidder, the Law Offices of Steven Palmer, LLC, in the amount of \$99,555. Mr. Stamp stated that two (2) bids were received; funding expended by the County for the legal services is reimbursed by the State. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the award by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- F. Request from Chesapeake College – Requested Council approval of a request from Chesapeake College for a Letter of Intent to provide local funding for design, construction and equipment for the Queen Anne’s Technical Center Project at Chesapeake College. Mr. Stamp stated that the Council appropriated the funding in FY24; however, the State funding did not materialize so the County “unallocated” its funding. Dr. Clifford Coppersmith, President, Chesapeake College, stated that his office has been working with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and other State agencies and has submitted a revised plan for the facility to the Maryland Department of General Services in hopes of being added to the capital project list for 2025; the revised plan includes removal of the marine tech program from the facility and having it remain at the Manufacturing Trade Center, thereby lowering the square footage for the proposed new Queen Anne’s Technical Center and

its cost by approximately \$20 million. Dr. David Harper, Vice President for Workforce and Academic Programs at Chesapeake College, outlined the curriculum to be offered at the Technical Center and provided photographs of similar technical centers at various locations throughout the nation. Dr. Harper stated that the College will be working closely with businesses in the region to ensure that the equipment in the Technical Center is the correct equipment; the curriculum leads to local jobs, and that faculty members are providing opportunities for short-term certifications and long-term employment so that youth can remain in the area. He stated that the College is also working with Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in local high schools to ensure that students can receive the next level of certifications at the College. Dr. Harper stated that a portion of the spacing in the Technical Center will be fixed spacing, with other spacing considered flexible; the agriculture, welding and electrical programs have been approved by the State for fixed spacing; HVAC, advance manufacturing, the construction trades are included in the square footage for flexible spacing. Karen Smith, Vice President for Administrative Services, Chesapeake College, outlined the amount of square footage in Phase 1 of the project – 63,000 square feet at a total cost of \$56,438,240, which includes building design, site work, construction, utilities, equipment and demolition of the current Queen Anne’s building; 75% of the cost will be paid for by the State, with the remaining 25% by the participating counties. She stated that Talbot County’s portion of design of the project is \$207,658 in FY26; construction cost in FY27 is \$2,595,726; and equipment cost in FY28 is \$272,500 for a total of \$3,075,884. Ms. Smith stated that Chesapeake College’s previous request was \$4.31 million. Dr. Harper provided additional information on the spacing in the proposed facility and Council discussion ensued with the representatives. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved forwarding a Letter of Intent to the State indicating the County’s intention to provide its share of funding for design, construction, and equipment for the Queen Anne’s Technical Center project by voting 5 - 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye

Mr. Stepp – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye

Ms. Mielke – Aye

Ms. Haythe – Aye

- G. Request from Department of Public Works – Requested Council approval of the recommendation of the Department of Public Works to approve an Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Mid-Shore Regional Counties (Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne’s and Talbot) and the Maryland Environmental Service for Solid Waste Removal; the amended and restated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would extend the solid waste removal services at the Mid-Shore Regional Landfill (Mid-Shore II) in Ridgely, Caroline County until June 30, 2042; said services at Mid-Shore II are scheduled to end in 2030. Tim Ford, Chief, Project Management Division-Environmental Operations, Maryland Environmental Service, stated that in addition to extending the term for Mid-Shore II (12 years), the Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding would also extend the total term of the Agreement between the four counties from 80 to 92 years; Kent and Queen Anne’s counties have already signed the amended MOU. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Ford regarding accruals for closure and post-closure costs for Mid-Shore II. Upon

motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Mr. Leshner, the Council approved the Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- H. Request from Department of Public Works – Requested Council approval of the County Engineer’s recommendation to utilize remaining contingency funds from the USDA Rural Development St. Michaels (Region II) Sewer Rehabilitation Project in the sum of \$221,012.55 to purchase equipment for the Region II wastewater system. Mr. Stamp read into the record each piece of equipment requested to be purchased via bid, piggybacking on another county’s contract or through contracts with the State of Maryland, and the cost of same. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the request by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- I. Request from Department of Emergency Services – Requested Council approval to have the Department of Emergency Services utilize FY25 Capital Project Funding for the purchase of two (2) new Horton ambulances from FESCO Emergency Sales in the sum of \$769,334; said purchase will be made utilizing Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) Contract pricing. Council discussion ensued with Brian LeCates, Director, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the purchase as presented by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- J. Request from Department of Emergency Services – Requested Council approval to have the Department of Emergency Services utilize FY25 Capital Project Funding for the purchase of 44 Physio Control CR-2 Automated External Defibrillators from Rescue One in the sum of \$83,736.00. Brian LeCates, Director, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services, stated that the defibrillators will replace all the current defibrillators in Talbot County Government, including those in County vehicles, other than those in the Sheriff’s Department, which have already been replaced. He stated that the current defibrillators are no longer serviceable by the manufacturer and are at the end of their life cycle. Mr. LeCates stated that the price submitted by Rescue One was lower than the Maryland State contract. Upon motion

by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the purchase as presented by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- K. Request from Department of Emergency Services – Requested Council approval to have the Department of Emergency Services utilize FY25 Capital Project Funding to purchase seven (7) 700 MHz public safety radios in the sum of \$52,153.43 through a Maryland State contract; said radios will be used by the Sheriff’s Department and in the volunteer fire department vehicles. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the purchase as presented by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- L. Request from Department of Emergency Services – Requested Council approval to have the Department of Emergency Services utilize FY23 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant funding and FY25 Capital Project Funding to purchase a door access control system for the new Sheriff’s Office at the Public Safety Complex on Marys Court from ARK Systems in the sum of \$96,515.00. Brian LeCates, Director, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services stated that the control system purchase would be made with \$25,000 in SHSP funding and \$71,515.00 in Capital Project Funding. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved the purchase as presented by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- M. Request from Department of Emergency Services – Requested Council approval to have the Department of Emergency Services utilize State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant funding and FY25 Capital Projects Funding to purchase security cameras for the new Talbot County Sheriff’s Office at the Public Safety Complex on Marys Court from ARK Systems in the sum of \$80,163.00; said purchase will be made by piggybacking on a contract with Howard County. Brian LeCates, Director, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services stated that the purchase will utilize FY22 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant funding in the sum of \$32,069.02 and FY25 Capital Projects Funding in the sum of \$48,093.98. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the purchase as presented by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- N. Request from Roads Department – Requested Council approval to utilized FY25 Capital Outlay Funding to purchase four (4) mowers from Gladhill Tractor in the sum of \$194,152.72 (\$48,538.18 each). Brian Moore, Superintendent, Roads and County Facilities, stated that the mowers, which will be used as attachments to tractors recently received, were originally budgeted for in FY24; however, due to supply chain delays, the funding for the purchase was moved to FY25. He stated that the purchase will be made utilizing a Sourcewell contract price. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the purchase as presented by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- O. Burn Ban Expiration – Mr. Stamp announced that the recent burn ban instituted by the Council at the request and recommendation of the Burn Ban Committee, expired on July 21, 2024, and was not requested to be renewed due to recent sufficient rainfall.

VIII. Public Hearing:

Bill No. 1575, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE CART BRIDGE AT THE NINTH HOLE OF THE TALBOT COUNTY HOG NECK GOLF COURSE, was read into the record by the Clerk, brought forward for public hearing, and members of the public were provided an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Stepp, Bill No. 1575 was brought to third reader with the Council voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

The Clerk then read Bill No. 1575 into the record. The Council voted 5 – 0 to approve Bill No. 1575 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

Bill No. 1575, FY25 Capital Enabling Legislation, will become effective as outlined in the legislation.

IX. Eligible for Vote:

Bill No. 1554, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1427 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RECYCLING STATIONS IN TALBOT COUNTY, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1554 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1555, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1532 AND 1516 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO AND EXPANSION OF THE ST. MICHAELS BRANCH OF THE TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1555 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1556, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1533 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TALBOT COUNTY DETENTION CENTER, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1556 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1557, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1534, 1486 AND 1424 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION TO PURCHASE IMPROVED OR UNIMPROVED REAL PROPERTY FOR FUTURE COUNTY PURPOSES, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1557 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye

Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1558, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1391 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE COMPLEX HVAC SYSTEM, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1558 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1559, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1536 AND 1187 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR EXTENSION OF WATER AND SEWER LINES TO THE TALBOT COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE PROPOSED UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SHORE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL SITE LOCATED BETWEEN LONGWOODS ROAD (MARYLAND RT. 662) AND U.S. ROUTE 50 IN EASTON, MARYLAND, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1559 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1560, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1537, 1509 AND 1484 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR A CAPITAL PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STATIONS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1560 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1561, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1511 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE ACQUISITION/CONSTRUCTION OF A TALBOT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FACILITY, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1561 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye

Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1562, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1504 AND 1478 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE EXPANSION OF BROADBAND TO UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED AREAS OF TALBOT COUNTY, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1562 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1563, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1542 AND 1505 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF 911 DIVISION TECHNOLOGIES AND THE 911 DIVISION COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH (CAD) SYSTEM, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1563 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1564, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1514, 1489 AND 1398 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TALBOT COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1564 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1565, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1503 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNTY BRIDGES, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1565 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1566, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1477, 1448 AND 1366 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO BLACK DOG ALLEY,

was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1566 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1567, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1541 AND 1506 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNTY ROADS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1567 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1568, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NOS. 1510, 1501, 1474, 1457, 1422, 1335 AND 1317 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR GOLDSBOROUGH NECK ROAD AND AIRPORT ROAD, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1568 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1569, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSTRUCTION OF AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CONCESSION STAND AT THE TALBOT COUNTY COMMUNITY SPORTS COMPLEX, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1569 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1570, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE STONE REVETMENT AND BULKHEAD AT SINCLAIR AVENUE WATERFRONT PARK IN TILGHMAN, MARYLAND, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1570 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1571, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE DEHUMIDIFIER AT THE TALBOT COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1571 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1572, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE GENERATOR AT THE TALBOT COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1572 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1573, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VACUUM COLLECTION SYSTEM SERVING THE REGION II MARTINGHAM SEWER SERVICE AREA, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1573 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1574, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1538 FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO AND EXPANSION OF THE CHAPEL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. The Council approved Bill No. 1574 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

Bill Nos. 1554 – 1574, FY25 Capital Enabling Legislation, will become effective as provided for in the legislation.

X. Project Update on Extension of Sewer to Bozman and Neavitt as Outlined in Resolution No. 250 – Ray Clarke, County Engineer - Mr. Clarke stated that the Council, in 2018, approved Resolution No. 250 which amended the County’s Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan to extend sewer service to the villages of Bozman and Neavitt for 610 dwelling units. He stated that the resolution was subsequently approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), design for the sewer extension was completed, and the project was bid out for construction earlier this year; two (2) contractors bid on the three (3) phases for the project: Phase 1A (extension of sewer from Scotts Lane to Bozman and Neavitt) was awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Schummer, Incorporated, in the sum of \$5,813,450; Phases 1B (boring under Broad Creek) and 1C (St. Michaels to Mount Pleasant before going under Broad Creek) were awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Spring and Associates, in the sums of \$683,810.00 and \$1,640,750.00, respectively. Mr. Clarke outlined the various phases of the work planned for the project which is anticipated to begin in October 2024. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Clarke who will continue to update the Council as the project moves forward.

XI. Public Comments: Members of the public were provided an opportunity to comment on matters of interest to them.

XII. Council Comments:

Mr. Stepp - Mr. Stepp offered his congratulations to Scott Mergenthaler on his recent retirement and stated that, in his opinion, it was great to join several of his colleagues at his retirement ceremony last week. He stated that Major Mergenthaler retired from 50 years of combined service in law enforcement with the Maryland State Police, Howard County and Talbot County. He stated that this year’s Talbot County Fair was again a success, and it was great to spend a good amount of time there last weekend. He congratulated the Talbot Softball Junior League team and coaches on their State championship and their participation in the Junior League East Tournament in Connecticut. He stated that, in his opinion, for the team to make it a regional tournament in only their 5th season, is phenomenal. He stated that several years ago, the Easton Little League and Home Run Baker Little League softball programs joined forces and now we just sent a team to the East Regionals. Mr. Stepp concluded his comments by again congratulating the team and coaches on their win.

Mr. Leshner - Mr. Leshner stated that he had recently joined Ms. Haythe at St. Vincent de Paul, one of the county’s seven food banks, whose mission, among others, is to provide a large number of families in the county with their food needs. He stated that the organization is embarking on a major expansion and is one of the entities which was funded by ARPA grant funding earlier this evening. He stated that Governor Moore was present to highlight the work of this important organization in our county and to thank the volunteers who contribute so much to the community.

- Ms. Mielke - Ms. Mielke congratulated Plein Air on its 20th anniversary, stated that there was a great turnout, and the event was a success, despite the challenging weather. Ms. Mielke concluded her comments by expressing her appreciation to staff and volunteers for all they do.
- Ms. Haythe - Ms. Haythe expressed her appreciation to the Council and staff for their prayers and concerns during her recovery from surgery and stated that she was glad to be back at the Council meetings as her husband had also recently had surgery and they had had a bumpy month. She congratulated all the ARPA funding recipients and all the nonprofits that work so hard in our community. Ms. Haythe commended Mr. Leshner and the APRPA Subcommittee for their work to make recommendations for funding and stated that, in her opinion, the decisions for funding requests were hard as all the organizations do great work in the community.
- Mr. Callahan - Mr. Callahan recounted that Council and staff are busy buying ambulances, extending sewer to the Bozman/Neavitt area to better serve the citizens of the county. Mr. Callahan welcomed Ms. Haythe back to the Council meetings.

Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in Open Session and immediately adjourn into Closed Session as listed on the statement for closing that meeting, and for the regularly scheduled meeting at 5:00 p.m. by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

- Mr. Callahan - Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye
Mr. Leshner - Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

The transcript of the July 23, 2024, County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

- XIII. Work Session on Regional Medical Center Project and Transfer of MD Rt. 662 – The Council met with representatives of Shore Health System, Inc., the Town of Easton, the Maryland State Highway Administration, local law enforcement, and County staff at 2:30 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room to discuss the proposed closure of MD Rt. 662 and matters related to same as a result of the Regional Medical Center project. Patrick Thomas, County Attorney, stated that the existing Rt. 662, a State road, needs to be realigned to accommodate the location of the new hospital and that in 2013, the Council approved a road transfer agreement with the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) which outlined the terms of the transfer of MD Rt. 662 to the County. He stated that under the terms of the agreement, SHA would transfer the road to the County after several conditions had been met – one of which was that a new Rt. 662 would be constructed by Shore Health System, Inc. which would then be transferred to SHA and the current route would be transferred to the County and the County would transfer to Shore Health System, Inc. Mr. Thomas stated that the State’s process for transfer of a road to another public entity is much less cumbersome than to a private entity. Mr. Callahan clarified that “transfer”

means the transfer of the land and Mr. Stamp clarified that the original agreement specified that the new road (MD Rt. 662) would be constructed and transferred to SHA prior to the closure of the current MD Rt. 662. He stated that the Council subsequently approved Bill No. 1231 which set forth the terms just outlined; however, due to the reconfiguration of the layout for the new hospital, the original agreement is no longer feasible, and an amendment is being proposed. Ryan Showalter, attorney for Shore Health System, Inc., outlined the reasons for the request to close MD Rt. 662 before the new Rt. 662 is built, citing the grading necessary for the site, time for compaction of the soil once graded, and the pouring of the concrete for the facility all at one time instead of in stages. Mr. Showalter stated that delay in closure of MD Rt. 662 would result in an approximately 8-month delay in the project itself and cost several million dollars; he requested Council consideration to close MD Rt. 662 beginning October 1, 2024, to May 1, 2025; the road would reopen for the 2025 “Reach the Beach” season. Discussion ensued with Council regarding various facets of the proposed closure including detour routes, proposed changes to Bill No. 1231, work to be completed and costs to be incurred on the surrounding roads of Hiners Lane, Hailem School Road, Airport Road, and Goldsborough Neck Road to accommodate heavier use during the proposed closure period for MD Rt. 662, notification to residents living on MD Rt. 662, media notification, and access to the Talbot County Community Center. The work session concluded at 3:30 p.m. Legislation to amend Bill No. 1231 is scheduled for introduction at the Council meeting later today.

XIV. Summary of Closed Session Held on July 23, 2024:

1. Statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session:

Time of closed session: 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Place of closed session: County Council Office
 Purpose of the closed session: To consider various matters as set forth in the statement for closing the meeting

2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:

Names of members voting aye: Callahan, Leshner, Mielke, Stepp
 Members opposed: None
 Abstaining: None
 Absent: Haythe (arrived at 4:15 p.m.)

3. Statutory authority to close session and listing of each topic actually discussed, persons present, and each action taken in the session:

Topic Description	Statutory Authority	Reason for Closed Session Discussion	Persons Present	Action Taken
To discuss appointments to various County boards and committees	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Public discussion would discourage individuals from volunteering to serve	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick	No action

			Thomas, Jessica Morris	
To discuss public security for elected officials	GP § 3-305(b)(10)	Public discussion would risk deployment of public security	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris, Sheriff Gamble	No action
For update on legal matter involving lease at Easton Airport	GP § 3-305(b)(7)	Attorney-client privilege regarding legal advice	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris, Micah Risher	Council concurred with recommendation
For legal advice on ballot questions	GP § 3-305(b)(7)	Attorney-client privilege regarding legal advice	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Lynn Mielke, Dave Stepp, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action



**TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT
07/16/2024**

OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK

OPERATING FUNDS AT	7/9/2024	\$5,308,490.70
INTEREST ON ACCOUNTS 6/2024		86,779.59
Deposits		13,773,700.51
Checks		(363,184.58)

ACH Disbursements	(3,202,598.84)
EFT's	(595,690.52)
Wire Transfers	(6,892,958.50)

OPERATING FUNDS AT 7/16/2024 \$8,114,538.36

PETTY CASH FUNDS \$18,105.00

INVESTMENT FUNDS

	<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)	5.35%	\$22,140,850.05
Bayvanguard Bank	4.68%	\$10,787,531.34
Shore United Money Market Account	5.33%	\$78,328,246.76

INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL \$111,274,733.15

TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS \$119,389,271.51



**TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
WEEKLY CASH STATEMENT
07/23/2024**

OPERATING FUNDS - SHORE UNITED BANK

OPERATING FUNDS AT 7/16/2024 \$8,114,538.36

TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 7/5/2024 (960,706.01)

Deposits	8,711,293.85
Checks	(146,693.78)
ACH Disbursements	(1,549,944.38)
EFT's	(308,634.50)
Wire Transfers	(1,862,795.37)

OPERATING FUNDS AT 7/23/2024 \$11,997,058.17

PETTY CASH FUNDS \$18,105.00

INVESTMENT FUNDS

	<u>Yield</u>	
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool (MLGIP)	5.36%	\$22,241,600.55
Bayvanguard Bank	4.68%	\$10,787,531.34
Shore United Money Market Account	5.33%	\$78,328,246.76

INVESTMENT FUNDS TOTAL \$111,375,483.65

TOTAL ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS \$123,372,541.82